

## Press release

07 April 2004

### Umicore secures record supply contracts with South Korean rechargeable battery producers

Umicore has concluded record supply contracts for the delivery of lithium cobaltite to South Korean rechargeable battery producers such as LG and Samsung. The contracts are for a total amount of USD 50 million and cover the period from April to September 2004.

These contracts provide confirmation of the growth in the South Korean rechargeable battery sector, which Umicore serves from its production facility in Cheonan some 100km south of Seoul. Umicore is committed to servicing and sustaining the growth in this sector both in terms of the quality of its products and also the volume of its production. In this context Umicore is currently in the process of increasing its production capacity at the Cheonan site – an expansion which will increase capacity by 50% and which will come on stream by mid-2004.

The worldwide market for lithium-ion batteries has been driven primarily by strong global sales levels of portable electronic equipment, particularly mobile phones and notebook computers. Lithium-ion technology offers the best power to weight combination for such equipment.

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## PROFILE

Umicore is an international metals and materials group. Its activities are centred on five business areas : Precious Metals Services, Precious Metals Products and Catalysts, Advanced Materials, Zinc and Copper. Each business area is divided into market-focused business units.

Umicore focuses on application areas where it knows its expertise in materials science, chemistry and metallurgy can make a real difference, be it in products that are essential to everyday life or those at the cutting edge of exciting, new technological developments.

Umicore's overriding goal of sustainable value creation is based on this ambition to develop, produce and recycle metals in a way that fulfils its mission: materials for a better life.

The Umicore Group has industrial operations on all continents and serves a global customer base; it generated a turnover of EUR 4.7 billion in 2003 and currently employs some 11,500 people.

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